

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 AID-05 /095 W

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P R 100522Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORATY 5930

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1780

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: NEW MOFA APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

1. MOFA ANNOUNCED MARCH 5 APPOINTMENT OF NEW AMBASSADORS TO UN AND ROK MISSION IN GENEVA AND NEW VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ASSIGNED TO HEAD ROK MISSION IN NEW YORK IS PRESENT ROK AMBASSADOR AT GENEVA MISSION MUN TOK-CHU, A FORMER VICE MINISTER. NO SHIN-YONG, OUTGOING VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WILL REPLACE MUN IN GENEVWWN AND YUN HA-CHONG, NOW MINISTER AT ROK EMBASSY TOKYO, WILL BECOME NEW VICE MINISTER. ON MARCH 8 THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF PROTOCOL OFFICER CHI YON-TAI TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR DELEGATE TO THE SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE ROK RED CROSS. CHI SUCCEEDS YI POM-SOK, WHO WE UNDERSTAND WILL BE APPOINTED ROK AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, ALTHOUGH THIS APPOINTMENT HAS YET TO BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED. ALSO ANNOUNCED IN PAST FEW DAYS WAS APPOINTMENT OF NEW MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LI HUI-IL, NOW MINISTER IN ROK EMBASSY, PARIS, AND A FORMER DIRECTOR

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OF ECONOMIC PLANNING BUREAU OF EPB. FORMER SECRETARY TO PRIME

MINISTER HAN SANG KOOK TELLS US INFORMALLY HE WILL BE
ROK AMBASSADOR IN OSLO.

COMMENT: THE APPOINTMENTS OF LI HUI-IL AND MUN TOK- CHU
CONTINUE THE TENDENCY, NOTICEABLE, BUT LESS PRONOUNCED
IN EARLIER MOFA APPOINTMENTS, TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF
APPOINTEES IN THE "EUROPEAN GROUP" IN THE UPPER LEVELS
OF THE MOFA HIERARCHY. THIS PHENOMENON MAY BE A NATURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED NATURE OF THE ROK
FOREIGN SERVICE SINCE THE INITIAL PERIOD WHEN IT WAS
HEAVILY ORIENTED TOWARD THE U.S. AND JAPAN, AND EVEN
MUN, IN ADDITION TO HIS EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE, (FRG, ITALY,
BELGIUM, GENEVA),

HAS ALSO SERVED IN WASHINGTON (SECOND SECRETARY)
AND NEW YORK (CONSUL GENERAL). LI'S APPOINTMENT IS
SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE HE COMES FROM OUTSIDE MOFA TO TAKE
OVER THE TOP MOFA ECONOMIC JOB. LI'S APPOINTMENT
REPRESENTS A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE HAND OF DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER NAM TOK-U, SINCE LI COMES FROM NAM'S
BUREAUCRATIC PARISH. YUN HA-CHONG, WHO IS KNOWN TO, AND WELL
LIKED BY, SEVERAL AMERICAN OFFICERS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH
HIM IS A FINE, INTELLIGENT MAN. HE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER,
BE A LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR THE HERTER AWARD FOR
CONSTRUCTIVE DISSENT. YUN HAS SERVED IN LONDON AS A SECOND
SECRETARY IN TAIPEI AS COUNSELLOR, WAS CHIEF OF MOFA'S
EUROPEAN-AMERICAN BUREAU, AND WAS MINISTER IN PARIS.
HE IS A CAREER MINISTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL01780
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-0194
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760375/aaaacocm.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW MOFA APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED
TAGS: PFOR, KS, (MUN TOK-CHU), (NO SHIN-YONG), (YUN HA-CHONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006